Aug 12, 2019
Final Score: 168 (96th percentile)

To Whom It May Concern,

I had a rather unique history with the LSAT compared to other applicants – I had been studying for a very long time off and on (over a year), and taken the test multiple times. While I certainly still needed some improvement on the raw material, my bigger problem was an overwhelming degree of performance anxiety. It got to the point where I did not believe anything could solve the problem. Thankfully, I thought wrong.

It takes a special kind of tutor – only one who, in my opinion, has an extremely deep knowledge of the LSAT – to truly be an asset in this situation. When Jonathan reviewed my practice tests, he was very honest with me, seamlessly extricating which of my mistakes were actually a product of my anxiety, and which required a deeper knowledge of the material. This in itself was extremely liberating, because it allowed me to gain a sense of confidence I did not have before. I believe part of the reason I struggled previously is because I couldn't make the distinction – what do I actually need to work on? What do I know and not know?

Jonathan especially saved my score when it came to the logic games (my weakest section). He picked up on the damaging habits I had formed, some of which I hadn't even realized. For instance, when I finished my first logic game in 6 minutes, and believed in my head that the recommended time for that game would have been 5 minutes, I subconsciously chastised myself, and carried this heightened stress into the next game. Which then builds to the third, and ultimately leads to a very negative mental state by the fourth. I remember Jonathan told me something that I believe saved my LSAT score in the end: "Okay, so you finished a five minute game in six minutes? Acknowledge that, and forgive yourself. Only after you forgive yourself do you move on."

I get so specific with this anecdote to illustrate how difficult and nuanced it is to tutor someone on the psychological aspects of the LSAT – because make no mistake, this exam tests your endurance and mental stamina just as much as your knowledge. Jonathan knew that test anxiety isn't something with a magic fix. However, you *can* chip away at it – by taking consistent practice tests, by improving your substantive knowledge of the material (which then boosts your confidence), and by being very self-aware of your bad habits and how to mitigate them.

This, in essence, is exactly what happened on test day for me. I still underperformed somewhat – I didn't have time to bubble five answer choices on the exam. But I was able to mitigate my anxiety to the point that my real knowledge of the exam actually shined through. Several T14 acceptances later, I cannot thank Jonathan enough. So if you are a student struggling with the LSAT – and particularly a student struggling with test anxiety on the LSAT – hire Jonathan. It was one of the best decisions I ever made.